

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 SY-10 AID-20 OPR-02 IO-12 RSR-01 /148 W
----- 035898

R 250940 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9839

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2351

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BG US

SUBJ: PROTEST OVER ANTI- AMERICAN DISPLAY

FROM CHARGE

REF: STATE 099625 (NOTAL)

1. BDG FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED ME AT 1245 HOURS
FRIDAY. BEFORE RAISING SUBJECT I PRESENTED HIM WITH
COPY OF PRESIDENT' S " FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE 1970' S" AND
SECRETARY' S " UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY 1972". FONMIN,
THANKING ME, SAID HE HAD ALREADY READ SOUTH ASIA EXCERPTS
WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED IN EXTENSO IN LOCAL PRESS. HE
ALSO EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT SPECIAL ENVOY SIDDIQUI
WAS ULTIMATELY ABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT NIXON IN WASHINGTON.

2. AS INSTRUCTED, I CALLED FONMIN' S ATTENTION TO
" PEACE ISLAND" POSTER DISPLAY IN FRONT OF OUR CHANCERY
AND ADDED THAT I HAD SINCE SEEN A SIMILAR DISPLAY, AL-
BEIT WITH SLIGHTLY LESS OFFENSIVE POSTERS, INSIDE TEJGAON
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AIRPORT TERMINAL GROUNDS. INASMUCH AS LATTER WAS INDISPUTABLY
BDG PROPERTY, IT ONLY SERVED TO REINFORCE POINTS I HAD
MADE TO DG ALAM ON WEDNESDAY.

3. BASIS OF FONMIN'S RESPONSE WAS THAT EMBASSY AND USG
SHOULD TAKE NO NOTICE OF SUCH THINGS. BANGLADESH IS A FREE
COUNTRY AND SLOGANS AND POSTERS ARE PLASTERED EVERYWHERE.
HE FELT THAT USG SHOULD NOT LET SUCH GARBAGE DISTRACT US
FROM BASIC FACT THAT BDG AND USG WERE IN FACT WORKING FOR
AND ACHIEVING EVER CLOSER RELATIONS.

4. I LET FONMIN KNOW THAT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN OUR TWO
GOVERNMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT MEANT TO GO BEYOND THE
OBSERVATION THAT SUCH INCIDENTS AS "PEACE ISLAND" DISPLAY
CLEARLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVES. I THEN
ADDED A PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT AMERICANS WORKING IN
BANGLADESH WERE KEENLY DISAPPOINTED THAT BDG HAD NOT TROUBLED
TO USE ITS INFLUENCE AT LEAST TO DEFLECT PREDICTABLE ANTI-
US AGITATION OF WPC FROM THE VERY DOORS OF OUR EMBASSY
CHANCERY. FONMIN MAINTAINED THAT BD PEACE COUNCIL IS A
PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, I WROTE THAT THE NAMES OF
K. CL. BENGALIS
FOUND THAT THEIR NAMES WERE BEING USED IN THIS CONNECTION.
AMERICANS SHOULD NOT EXPECT THAT EVEN THOSE EMINENT BENGALIS
WHO HAD AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING (OBVIOUS
REFERENCE TO MIN. AG. ABDUS SAMAD) WOULD PAY
ATTENTION TO SUCH MINOR DETAILS AS CONTENTS OF POSTER
ART.

5. THESE AND OTHER REMARKS OF FONMIN OFFICIALS LEAD ME TO
SURMISE THAT MFA IS HELPLESS TO HEAD OFF SUCH EPISODES AND
FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED TO BE TELLING ME THAT WE WILL BE
WASTING OUR TIME MAKING REPRESENTATIONS WHEN FUTURE SUCH
EPISODES OCCUR. IN MINDS OF BDG OFFICIALS, THE FACT
THAT AWAMI LEAGUE CABINET MINISTERS NO LONGER IDENTIFY
USA BY NAME IN "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" ORATORY CONSTITUTES A
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT ON THEIR PART IN PROMOTING USG-BDG
RELATIONS. GIVEN THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH, PERHAPS IT IS.
NEWBERRY

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: CALCUTTA
ISLAMABAD
LONDON
MOSCOW
NEA
NEW DELHI
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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